

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 236933

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 5948 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ATHENS

LISBON ROME MOSCOW 25 OCTOBER.

QUOTE

S E C R E T USNATO 5948

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NPG ACTIVITIES

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF WASHDC FLASH ACTION

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MOSCOW PLEASE PASS COUNSELLOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT

SECRETARY HARTMAN

REF: (A) USNATO 5935 (B) STATE 233029

1. PER REFTTEL, NPG PERMREPS LESS PORTUGAL MET AT 3:15 P.M. OCTOBER 25 TO DISCUSS NPG POSTPONEMENT.

2. KRAPF (FRG) SAID BONN REALIZED THAT OTHER NPG MEMBERS COULD NOT ACCEPT WATERED-DOWN ROME NPG MEETING AND WAS PREPARED TO BOW TO ALLIED WISHES. KRAPF UNDERSTOOD THAT DEFMIN LEBER AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD DISCUSSED MATTER BY TELEPHONE. AFTER LEBER REALIZED THE SITUATION AS SEEN FROM WASHINGTON, HE AGREED THAT THE ROME SESSION COULD OBVIOUSLY NOT TAKE PLACE. FRG WAS RELUCTANT TO DROP THE NPG SESSION ENTIRELY, AND KRAPF SUGGESTED IT MIGHT SOMEHOW BE POSSIBLE TO COMBINE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS AROUND FRINGE DPC/NAC MEETING IN DECEMBER. HOWEVER, BONN DID NOT YET HAVE FIRM PROPOSALS TO MAKE.

3. PECK (UK) SAID HMG WAS PREPARED TO FOLLOW GERMAN LEAD ON POSTPONEMENT. FOLLOW-UP PROBLEMS REMAINED, HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO CONTINUING WORK ON SENSITIVE NUCLEAR SUBJECTS, AND THESE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED SOON.

4. PROCEDURALLY, PERMREPS AGREED TO INFORM ROTATING NPG MEMBERS NOT CURRENTLY ON NPG (TURKEY, CANADA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY) OF THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE ROME MEETING. AS TO PRESS TREATMENT OF POSTPONEMENT, PERMREPS AGREED ON FOLLOWING TEXT WHICH DRAWS ON GUIDANCE IN REF B:

"THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP (NPG) NORMALLY MEETS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN THE FALL AND SPRING OF EACH YEAR. THIS YEAR THE FALL MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ROME, NOVEMBER 7-8. THE PRESS OF CURRENT BUSINESS IN A NUMBER OF ALLIED CAPITALS HAS LED MINISTERS TO CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DEFER THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CURRENT ISSUES UNTIL THEY WILL BE IN BRUSSELS FOR NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN DECEMBER."

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END TEXT.

IT WAS AGREED THAT NATO PRESS SPOKESMAN WOULD DRAW ON ABOVE GUIDANCE ON AN IF ASKED, REPEAT, IF ASKED BASIS ONLY. MOREOVER, HE WOULD NOT DEVIATE FROM ABOVE TEXT AND WOULD REFUSE TO MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENT. PERMREPS URGED THAT ALL NPG DELEGATIONS AND SPOKESMEN IN FOREIGN MINISTRIES AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES IN ALL CAPITALS SCRUPULOUSLY ADHERE TO ABOVE LINE.

MCAULIFFE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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